a) providing hydrogel microbeads each comprising a plurality of active material droplets entrained within a hydrophilic matrix, said microbeads having an average diameter between about 1 μm to about 1000 μm;

b) creating a suspension of a plurality of said microbeads;

c) delivering said suspension comprising said microbeads onto an intended environment; and

d) allowing said microbeads to dehydrate.

4. (amended) The method according to Claim 2 wherein said step of exposing said microbeads to humidity is performed by wetting the surfaces of said microbeads with water.

Please cancel Claim 11.

Remarks

Applicant is hereby amending Claim 1 (basis therefor being found, for example, at page 2, lines 23-25; at page 3, lines 19-25; at page 5, lines 1 and 2; at page 5, line 25, through page 6, line 2; at page 15, lines 7-15; and in Claim 19 of Applicant's specification) and Claim 4 (basis therefor being found, for example, at page 5, lines 25-27) to further clarify the language thereof. Applicant is also hereby amending Claim 1 to recite the limitations of Claim 11, and Claim 11 is therefore being canceled.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. Section 112, First Paragraph

Claim 1-8 and 10-18 have been variously rejected under the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. §112 as not having been completely enabled by Applicant's specification. The rejections are respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

The Examiner has asserted that Applicant's specification, although enabling for simultaneous entraining and microbead formation, is not enabling for microbead formation followed by entraining. This concern has been obviated by Applicant's amendment of step (a) of Claim 1, which clarifies that Applicant is "providing hydrogel microbeads each comprising a plurality of active material droplets entrained within a hydrophilic matrix . . ."